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Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society
March - April 2006

Stephanie Hunter, Joyce Bernstine Honored at International Dinner

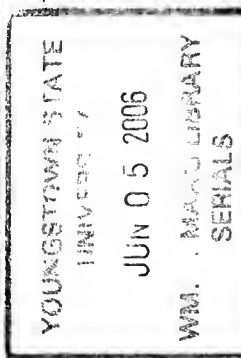
The 2006 International Dinner was held at Youngstown Country Club on Friday, March 24, 2006. Stephanie Hunter was honored as the Gem of the Year, and Joyce Bernstine was presented with Golden Gem of the Year honors.

The International Dinner, held annually, features the Doctors' Day recognition of physicians and their contribution to the community. Doctors were toasted with champagne provided by the OSMA Insurance Agency and Sky Insurance. The Mahoning County Medical Society Alliance co-hosts the event and takes this opportunity to recognize members who support medicine and their physician spouses through their volunteer work and community involvement. Susan Yarab, last year's Gem of the Year, presented the award to Mrs. Hunter. Anita Gestosani presented Mrs. Bernstine with her award.

A buffet of international cuisine featuring dishes from China, India, Italy and Greece was enjoyed by those in attendance. They were serenaded by Latin music provided by Requena.



Joyce Bernstine accepts
Golden Gem of the Year Award



The Hunter Family
L to R - James, Nicholas, Stephanie, Dr. Tim



Susan Yarab, Stephanie Hunter, Joyce Bernstine, Anita Gestosani



Stephanie Hunter & Joyce Bernstine

Bulletin

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CALENDAR

May 15, 2006

*Deadline for Medicare
Prescription Drug Plan*

May 19-21, 2006

*OSMA Annual
Meeting, Cleveland*

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Society Dinner

Thursday, June 15, 2006

*Annual OSHA Update
Avion on the Water*

Thursday, June 22, 2006

*Canfield Fair Exhibitors
Breakfast*

August 30-September 4, 2006

Canfield Fair

September 26, 2006

Society Dinner

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From the President

by Ronald M. Yarab, Jr., MD

AHH! You can tell its spring...The smell of taxes is in the air!

Yes, when the flowers bloom it is time to pay those pesky taxes again. And just as with flowers, there are so many varieties of taxes to keep track of. You have the obvious, Federal and State; also we have local community taxes, local income taxes and those ever-popular property taxes. For those of you lucky enough to still own your own business, you have personal property taxes and, blooming every two weeks is the weed-like 941 tax. If you ask a fine citizen of this country how much they pay in

taxes each year you'll get the same answer as if you asked them how many flowers they have in their front yard, "A lot but I don't know how many". Everybody knows how much they are getting back from the government but nobody knows how much they are paying. Ask your neighbor how much they are paying for MRDD, Metro parks, or the TB clinic. They will give you that stunned deer-in-the-headlights look. Most have no idea that they are paying for these services. The typical response is "they take my taxes out with my mortgage and I don't see them". The same is said of income taxes, "they just take them out of my check". What a scam. Nobody knows their actual tax burden. My guess is if they knew, there would be a revolt. My solution is to make all Americans stroke a check every month for their taxes. All taxes -- Federal, state, local, property and all other direct taxes. I think this would change the direction in which our country is heading...quickly!

The above are the direct taxes; we have a whole slew of nasty dandelions in the garden with indirect taxes. These are your sales tax, gas tax -- basically anything you can think of that you do involves fees or taxes that go back to the government. I like to hunt. Even if I am hunting on my own property, I need a hunting license from the state. If I want to hunt ducks I need a federal duck stamp. In today's America there is not one aspect of our lives that does not go untaxed.

Let's take a look at the tax stats, which is even scarier than the concept of taxes. I was able to get my grubby little fingers on the raw data for the 2003 tax year. To me the most interesting finding is that in tax year 2003 the IRS received 129 million tax returns that had a positive gross income (AGI), not just the ones from people who earn enough to pay taxes. Ninety million of the tax returns came from people who paid taxes into the treasury. That leaves 42 million people who filed who owed no tax. They used exemptions, deductions and tax credits to wipe out their tax burden. Not only did they get all of their withholdings back, they got a check on top of it. Nice. I call this an entitlement program. (What about the people who didn't file and those 12-20 million illegal aliens who are utilizing our government programs and services?)

Let's look at who pays what. From all the positive AGI returns, if you made more than \$130,000 you are in the top 5%. The top 5% paid 54.36% of all the taxes collected. The top 1% (income greater than 295,500) paid 34.7% of all taxes collected. If you made over \$29,000 you were in the top 50% of wage earners in the country. The top 50% paid 96.54% of all the taxes. Looking at it from the other direction, the bottom 50% only paid 3.46% of all taxes collected. (Again, what about the non-filers and those pesky illegals?) What a great system!

What this all means is that we need meaningful tax reform in this country, whether it be a flat or a consumption tax, where everybody contributes something to the system. The first hurdle is having Americans actually aware of what they are paying in taxes at all levels. We cannot continually add embedded and indirect taxes. Also, we cannot keep raising taxes on the top 50% to support the bottom 60-70 % (government school math).

As the percentage of Americans who actually pay taxes decreases, the dependence on government programs will grow and the politicians (both parties!) will gain more power with larger entitlement vote getting schemes, i.e. "Don't vote for them they'll cut _____ (insert favorite government program here). I will continue to fund _____ (insert favorite government program here), if I'm elected to serve as _____ (insert desired political office here).

Your politically challenged president,

Where Did Everybody Go?



A long time ago, but not far away, I was born in an 850 bed hospital, which was one of two of that size in the area. Over the next few decades, this hospital, and its competing facility, saw a lot of change, in itself, and in the community. About 20 years after my birth, the city lost thousands of well paying industrial jobs over a short time, these jobs going to other states and even other countries, where the costs of labor were less. This led to a very difficult time for the community, which lasted a long time. In the ensuing years that followed, however, the hospitals not only survived, but also even prospered, and actually became the largest employers in the area. While they did so, they ironically shrunk drastically in size, to around 250 beds each. Now, even one of the two hospitals may close, leaving the other half to carry on.

The city of course is Youngstown, and the place of my birth was St. E's. Everyone is wondering about the effects of significant shrinking, or even disappearance, of the Hospitals formerly known as YHA upon our community, its workers, its economy, and our ability to provide care to its people. If one considers the events of the last 40 years, in medicine, in hospitals, and in our community, one might gain some perspective on current affairs.

First, I wonder how said facilities shrank in size over time. The population didn't shrink, and to the extent it might have become healthier was offset I'd wager by significant expansion in the depth and breadth of medical services demanded/offered/available. The answer lies in more diverse and more efficient delivery of said services. Obviously much of what was done in the past in the hospitals is now done outside of these places. From Orthopaedics to Psychiatry, most specialties have found effective means of providing services somewhere else besides an inpatient facility. Home health care and creation of rehab facilities likewise diminished the need for inpatient beds. Patients aren't in less need than 30 years ago; they are just taken care of in different ways and different places. These ways and places were developed in response to demand and created with available resources. Enterprising people will and have found ways to practice medicine on tighter budgets than monolithic hospitals can stomach, which I suspect is what has put the ultimate squeeze upon Northside Hospital.

Speaking of resources, employment in the health care industry seems to increase in an inverse relationship to inpatient bed capacity. Despite hospitals smaller size, more people are employed in health care here than ever before, directly by the hospitals and their branches, if you will, or even by those other smaller units such as physician offices, free standing labs, and ASC's that now have risen to compete with the main hospitals for an ever increasing ability to provide care in ambulatory settings. In other words, when a hospital shrinks, or even closes, the jobs don't leave the area, they just move to another format where care is now delivered instead. Again, the need is there, as are the jobs, just in a different place and design.

Which leads one to consider the ubiquitous cry over jobs that will be "lost" if a hospital closes. Unlike the steel industry, we aren't talking about actual losses of tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs to Texas, Mexico, or Korea. These jobs will be here for the asking, perhaps on a different pay scale, and less money will be put into the union coffers, but isn't that the point? Pay and benefits beyond what the market can stand is a common thread running through many industries today, with Forum getting a taste of what the Airline and Automobile industries are swallowing on a far greater scale. For the local community as a whole, however, I don't see a parallel collapse, as Toyota and Hyundai aren't able to nurse the sick, much less prescribe medications or perform surgery. However this plays out, it should not be as cataclysmic as the media might imply. If Youngstown needs those 250 beds, they'll be there, perhaps on Belmont instead of Gypsy, but still here in the valley. If they aren't truly needed, they will be gone, and good riddance.

Events happen for a reason. The economics of health care aren't easy; the weak will falter, and the strong survive. Keep up or get out of the way. We can and will do more, even if we have less with which to work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. S. Boniface MD".

ANNUAL OSHA UPDATE SCHEDULED

The annual OSHA Update workshop will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2006, at Avion on the Water, 2177 W. Western Reserve Rd., Canfield. Registration will open at 8:30 A.M. and the workshop will begin at 9:00 A.M. Flyers will be mailed to all members by the end of May.

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Bits 'n' Pieces

Dr. Yiechul Jack Jung has retired from practice effective May 24, 2006.

The following doctors have not renewed membership for 2006

Thomas A. Bailey, MD

John Buckley, Jr., MD

Sherif Hanna, MD

Rudolph Krafft, MD

Maureen Matthews, MD

Russell Morrison, III, DO

Tracy Neuendorf, DO

Richard Pearlstein, MD

Reema Taneja, MD

David Thomas, MD

2006-2007 DIRECTORY IN THE WORKS

Work has begun on the 2006-2007 Tri-County Membership Directory. You should have received in the mail a questionnaire asking what inspired you to become a physician. The responses from these will be used for the directory theme, "Inspired to Heal", and should make for very interesting reading.

INFORMATION

Included in this *Bulletin* is a form that you may complete and return with changes to your listing in the directory. Please check the current directory for your listing. If all the information is correct, you need not return the form and we will use the current information.

PHOTOS

If you do not have a photo in the directory, or you are a new member being listed for the first time, you may submit a photo to be included. At this time we have not scheduled a photo shoot, but if you are interested in having a photo taken, please let us know. If there are enough physicians interested, we will schedule a photographer to take the pictures. This information also applies to those members who have a photo in the directory that is out of date and who would like to have a more current picture in the directory. The photos used in the directory are the same ones used for the physician locator on the website.

ADVERTISING

Last year we sold enough advertising to pay for the directory. This year we are hoping to actually make money! If you would like to advertise in the directory, or if you know of someone who would like to buy an ad, contact Maggie Courtney-Hedrich or Janet Zambelli at Prodigal Media, 330-707-2088. This year we will also be advertising the directory for sale to the general public so the ads will reach more people than ever.

NEW MEMBERS

Uma C. Perni, MD

Obstetrics/Gynecology

7067 Tiffany Blvd.
Suite 220
Poland, OH 44514

Medical Education: Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia
Internship: MCP/Hahnemann University, Philadelphia
Residency: MCP/Hahnemann University, Philadelphia

Eduardo Velez, MD

Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine

Associates in Pulmonary Medicine
89 N. Main Street
Poland, OH 44514

Medical Education: Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Columbia
Internship: Metropolitan Hospital, New York, NY
Residency: Metropolitan Hospital, New York, NY
Fellowship: St. Elizabeth Medical Center, Boston

Nicholas DePizzo, II, DO

Family Practice

4991 Belmont Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
Erie, PA
Internship: St. Joseph Health Center, Warren
Residency: St. Joseph Health Center, Warren

Ritha Kartan, MD

Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine

Eastern Ohio Pulmonary Consultants, Inc.
960 Windham Ct., #1
Youngstown, OH 44512

Medical Education: Siddharta/Guntur Medical College, India
Residency: Cooper Hospital Medical Center, NJ
Fellowship: Cooper Hospital Medical Center, NJ

Trina Pagano, MD

Obstetrics/Gynecology

The Center for Women
4139 Boardman-Canfield Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406

Medical Education: Ohio State University School of Medicine
Internship: Ohio State University Hospital
Residency: Ohio State University Hospital

James A. Shaer, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery

St. Elizabeth Health Center
8401 Market Street
Boardman, OH 44512

Medical Education: Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia
Internship: University of Connecticut, Farmington, CT
Residency: University of Connecticut, Farmington, CT

Salim Abou Jaoude, MD

Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine

Eastern Ohio Pulmonary Consultants, Inc.
960 Windham Ct., #1
Youngstown, OH 44512

Medical Education: American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Internship: American University of Beirut, Lebanon
Residency: Good Samaritan Hospital of Maryland
Fellowship: Temple University, Philadelphia

Lawrence Goldstein, MD

Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine

Eastern Ohio Pulmonary Consultants, Inc.
960 Windham Ct., #1
Youngstown, OH 44512

Medical Education: State University of New York
Internship: University Hospitals of Cleveland
Residency: University Hospitals of Cleveland
Fellowship: Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Tac Zhun Lee, MD

Ophthalmology

Oh Eye Associates, Inc.
8110 Market Street
Youngstown, OH 44512

Medical Education: University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
Internship: University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
Residency: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
Fellowship: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

2006-2007 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Please take a moment to complete the directory information form below and return it to the MCMS. If you have more than two offices, please feel free to list all offices in the tri-county area. For those members who do not return an updated form, we will use the information from the 2005 membership directory. If you are interested in having a photo taken for the directory, please let us know. Based on the level of interest, we may be able to schedule a photographer to take new photos. If you have a recent photo that you would like to use, please send it to us at the address listed below, or email it to mcms1872@sbcglobal.net.

The directory will be available in July 2006.

2006 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

Please complete the form below and return it to the Mahoning County Medical Society by fax (330-533-4940) or by mail, 565 E. Main Street, Suite 220, Canfield, OH 44406, no later than June 15, 2006.

Physician Name _____

Practice Name (if applicable) _____

Primary Specialty _____

Board Certified Yes No

Primary Office Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

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Phone _____ Fax _____

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Medical School _____

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In Memoriam

Samuel Zlotnick, MD

April 23, 1915 ~ May 1, 2006

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